

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 12, and with the addition of new claims 19 and 20, claims 7 to 11 and 13 to 20 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 7 to 11 and 17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7 to 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Japanese Patent Document No. 2002/280237 (“Masahiro”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,703,462 (“Woody”). For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Masahiro and Woody does not render unpatentable these claims.

Claim 7 relates to an ignition coil of an ignition system in an internal combustion engine, and has been amended to recite the feature of at least one electrically conductive component having, at least in some areas, an arrangement for an electrically effective evening out of its inside surface, wherein the arrangement adjoins the housing by a smooth surface and wherein the magnetically active core adjoins the same arrangement, and wherein the electrically conductive component is a peripheral core of a compact ignition coil. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on page 5, line 30 to page 6, line 2 of the Specification, as well as in previously presented (and now cancelled) claim 12.

The Office Action refers to the center core 110 and the wrap tube 111 of Masahiro as disclosing the electrically conductive component and the arrangement for an electrically effective evening out of its surface, respectively. Further, the Office Action states that reference numeral 150 of Masahiro is the housing.

In the Response to Arguments section, the Examiner contends that since Masahiro discloses the arrangement 111 covering the inner core 110, “[i]t would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the same material to cover the electrically conductive component 140 and adjoins the housing 150 by a smooth surface.” Although these contentions are not agreed with, claim 11 has been amended to better clarify the location of the arrangement, and to recite that the arrangement is *for an electrically effective evening out of its inside surface* (i.e., the inside surface of the

electrically conductive component). In contrast, according to Masahiro, and based on the Examiners contentions, the arrangement would be located between the inside surface of the housing and the outside surface of the electrically conductive component, and therefore, would not be able to electrically effectively even out the inside surface of the electrically conductive component.

As such, Masahiro does not disclose, or even suggest, an arrangement for an electrically effective evening out of its inside surface, wherein the arrangement adjoins the housing by a smooth surface, and wherein the magnetically active core adjoins the same arrangement. Woody does not cure the critical deficiencies of Masahiro. Therefore, the combination of Masahiro and Woody does not render unpatentable independent claim 7, or dependent claims 8 to 11 and 17.

Withdrawal of the present rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claim 12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Masahiro, Woody and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0108931 (“Takeyama”). For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Masahiro, Woody and Takeyama does not render unpatentable claim 12.

Claim 12 has been cancelled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present rejection.

Withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claims 13 to 16 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 13 to 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Masahiro. For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Masahiro does not render unpatentable claims 13 to 16.

Claim 13 relates to an ignition coil of an ignition system in an internal combustion engine, and has been amended to recite the feature of the outer core is surrounded by a second electrically conductive plastic covering the inside surface of the outer core on a side facing the secondary winding. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on page 5, line 30 to page 6, line 2 of the Specification.

Nowhere does Masahiro disclose, or even suggest, the feature that the outer core is surrounded by a second electrically conductive plastic covering the inside surface of the outer core on a side facing the secondary winding. As discussed above, according to

Masahiro, the electrically conductive plastic would be located between the inside surface of the housing and the outside surface of the electrically conductive component. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Masahiro does not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features included in claim 13. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Masahiro does not render unpatentable claim 13, or claims 14 to 16 and 18, which depend from claim 13.

Withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

V. New Claims 19 and 20

Claims 19 and 20 have been added herein. New claims 19 and 20 do not add any new matter and are fully supported by the present application, including the Specification. Claims 19 and 20 ultimately depend from claim 7, and are therefore patentable over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons more fully set forth above.

VI. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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